

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 12 line 31 to page 13 line 25 with the following:

"In another similar configuration the back end further comprises a magnet 13 to assist in the capture of magnetically susceptible metallic debris. It is preferable to position the magnet at a location where it may exert the most benefit and capture a substantial amount of magnetically susceptible debris during use. Consequently, one skilled in the art would recognize that the magnet 13 could be located in a number of positions within the protective shield. For example, if the shield is placed on a drilling tool used for inserting screws on the underside of a metallic surface it would be beneficial to locate the magnet 13 near the back end of the protective shield. Alternatively, if one is positioned above a metallic sheet of material performing a cutting operation it may be beneficial to have the magnet 13 positioned close to the front end of the protective shield. In addition, one skilled in the art could envision multiple magnets 13 placed in strategic locations on the protective device 10 for use in a variety of positions. These magnets 13 may be affixed in position by snap-fit, press-fit or adhesive. Correspondingly, one skilled in the art could provide a single magnet 13 that is removable and able to be relocated to other positions within the protective shield. In this case the protective shield may also comprise one or more

positioning adapters to allow placement and removal of a magnet 13 such as for example a snap-clip that will securely hold a magnet 13 during tool use and will allow removal of the magnet 13 for relocation on the protective shield."

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 14 line 7-22 with the following:

"The cylindrical-shaped housing 12 may further comprise a light source 11 or an adapter for affixing a debris removal system such as a vacuum. Often times tooling operations must be conducted in areas in which there is not adequate lighting. In these circumstances one skilled in the art can imagine incorporating a light source 11 within the protective shield to allow the user to view the working area during a tooling operation. In such a configuration the protective shield would be translucent and would comprise a lighting system which may include one or more light emitting diodes arranged within or on the exterior of the protective shield, an energy source such as one or more batteries and a switch positioned between the light source 11 and battery to allow the user to control the lighting. The electronic configuration of such a system is well known in the art and may be purchased commercially."

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 17 line 8 to page 18 line 4 with the following:

"Alternatively, a foam core may be utilized to prevent debris from escaping the protective shield. The foam core may be formed generally in the shape of a tube having an internal diameter able to receive a tool bit 22

without significantly contacting the bit 22 during use and an external diameter able to be received by the internal diameter of the spring 14. Correspondingly, the foam core 15 may have an internal diameter able to receive the exterior diameter of the spring 14 such that the foam core 15 encases the spring 14. One skilled in the art would recognize that when such a tubular foam core 15 is compressed the internal diameter may decrease, consequently such a decrease would be taken into consideration when selecting a diameter such that the foam core 15 interior wall does not significantly interact with the tool bit 22 during operations. More specifically, the foam core 15 internal diameter would preferably be selected such that upon compression, the foam core 15 would not interfere with or be damaged by the tooling operation. The length of the foam core 15 will depend on the length of the tool bit 22, the tool bit chuck 20 and the back end of the protective shield. Preferably the foam core is a length that allows one end of the foam core 15 to fit flush against the tool bit chuck 20 and the other end to extend into the back end of the cylindrical-shaped housing 12 about 1/8 to about 1/2 inch when the spring 14 is in its resting position or non-compressed state. The length of the foam core 15 is from about 1/2 inch to about 12 inches, preferably from about 1 inch to about 6 inches and most preferably from about 2 inches to about 4 inches."